



# The Guardian

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## Sanusi wrong over alleged missing \$49.8b, says Senate

From Azimazi Momoh Jimoh and  
Bridget Chiedu Onochie, Abuja

It is not true that \$49.8 billion oil money is missing from the Federation Account as alleged by a former Governor.

...DAY 88

**BRING  
BACK  
OUR GIRLS**

Again, confab adjourns over derivation, others

- 'Wise men' move to resolve stalemate
- Northern elders reject amended recommendations

From Terhemba Daka and  
Karlis Tsokar, Abuja

AGAIN, the meeting of the Anational conference consensus committee set up to reconcile the positions of the northern and southern delegates on the contentious issue of resource control and related matters ended in a stalemate.

The development caused confusion at the conference and again forced an abrupt adjournment of yesterday's session which was characterised by rowdiness.

Consequently, another meeting between the Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi-leadership of the conference and all the stakeholders made up of representatives of the delegates popularly called 50 wise men has been slated to take place at the venue of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

- Rejects panel's proposal to stop fuel subsidy
- Wants speedy passage of PIB
- Mark blames executive, legislature for graft

nor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Malam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, the Senate declared yesterday. Adopting the report of its Finance Committee, which investigated the matter, the upper legislative chamber,

however, rejected a recommendation that subsidy on petroleum products be halted.

And Senate President, David Mark declared that both the legislative and executive arms of the Federal Govern-

ment were guilty of failure to fight the inefficiency in the petroleum industry.

After an exhaustive debate on the report of the Senator Ahmed Makarfi-led committee, the Senate equally endorsed the recommendation

that the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) should be given accelerated passage as a way of curbing the corruption in the industry.

The major thrust of the report was its submission that "there was never any unremitted \$49.8 billion" as it stated that "The committee could not see how the figure of \$49.8 billion was arrived at by the CBN governor in the first instance."

An attempt by Senator Sadiq Yar'Adua, (APC, Katsina State) to cause the Senate to postpone the consideration of the report was overruled by Mark who also decried references made by Yar'Adua to the fact that some findings of the committee could warrant the impeachment of President Goodluck Jonathan.

Other recommendations of the committee include: "That

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Minister of Information, Labaran Maku (left); former Chairman, Economic Summit Group, Mazi Sam Oluabunwa; celebrant, Chief Henry Odukomaia; Mrs. Lydia Odukomaia and Commissioner of Information and Strategy, Ogun State, Yusuph Olaniyonu, during the cutting of the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday cake of Odukomaia at Civic Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos ... yesterday.

PHOTO: GABRIEL IKHAHON

## UN adopts new strategy to tackle Boko Haram

From Mohammed Abubakar,  
Abosede Musa (Abuja) and  
Njadvava Musa (Maiduguri)

DETERMINED to tackle insurgency in Nigeria, the United Nations (UN) yesterday disclosed that it had adopted a new strategy that would assist the Federal Government in curbing the Boko Haram whose activities have claimed several lives.

In a related development, a report by the French Institute for Research in Africa (IFRA) has stated that Nigeria recorded 60,858 violent deaths within the last eight years, with road accidents re-

sponsible for most of the deaths.

Besides, the Presidency has faulted insinuations in some quarters about the alleged lack of commitments on the

- 'Nigeria records 60,858 violent deaths in eight years'

part of the President Goodluck Jonathan-led administration to locate the over 200 female students of the Gov-

ernment Secondary School (GSS) Chibok in Borno State abducted since April 14. In the same vein, suspected

insurgents yesterday blocked one of the main routes into Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, thereby forcing motorists to make a detour which took longer time.

Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for West Africa, Said Djinnit disclosed the fresh move yesterday at the opening of the 45th Ordinary Session of the Economic Community of West African States, (ECOWAS) at its two-day summit in Accra, the Ghanaian capital.

He however, expressed satisfaction in the support of sub-regional body to the counter-terrorism efforts of the Federal Government in tackling the insurgents. Known as an integrated support package, (ISP), the UN official said the strategy was designed at complementing on going efforts of the Nigerian government, which could only achieve results through a multi-dimensional approach.

The UN representative explained that the current support from ECOWAS was also a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### NEWS NOTES

#### Burundi law to limit church numbers

BURUNDI'S lower house of parliament has passed a bill intended to curb the country's "proliferation of churches". Evangelical churches mushroomed during and after the long ethnic-based civil war, which officially ended in 2005 after some 300,000 people had died.

#### 2018 World Cup: Nigeria should begin preparations now, experts insist

TUESDAY, July 8, 2014 has been described as the day football changed forever. It was the day Germany stunned the world with an audacious 7-1 annihilation of hosts, Brazil, in the semi-final of the on-going World Cup.

#### Jonathan nominates FRSC boss, Chidoka, Abubakar as ministers

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan has forwarded the names of the Corps Marshall, Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Osita Chidoka and a Political Science lecturer in the University of Abuja, Dr. Sulaiman Olanrewaju Abubakar, for screening and confirmation for ministerial positions.



# 'Nigeria records 60,858 violent deaths in eight years'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

reflection of the solidarity of the countries of the region and their legitimate concern about the spread of violent extremism.

"The UN has adopted an integrated support package to complement Nigeria's efforts, since we are convinced that only a multi-dimensional approach can bring lasting solution to the crisis.

"Our primary and immediate concern is the plight of children including in particular those that are being held in captivity by the terrorists, Boko Haram group as well as the fate of the civilian population in the North East, where human rights and humanitarian conditions are distressing," he added.

While stating that Nigeria, in line with global trend would have recorded a de-

crease in violence rate if not for the activities of Boko Haram, the report which was presented in Abuja yesterday, however, noted that road accidents were responsible for most of the violent deaths in Nigeria.

Travellers to the southern part of the state had to go through Maiduguri and Damaturu road into Gombe State to reconnect the state before getting to their respective destinations. The Guardian also gathered that many motorists and passengers on the 187-kilometre Maiduguri-Damaturu road were forced to make U-turn as they were attacked at different spots.

According to Prof. Marc-Antoine Perouse de Montclos, Associate Fellow, Africa programme, who made the presentation, this should call attention on the need for

maintenance of roads, better funding of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and better driving attitude for Nigerian motorists as well as good maintenance culture for oil tanker owners as many deaths are recorded from oil tanker explosions.

The report, which was done in collaboration with the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP), stated that between June 2006 and May 2014, 14,006 lethal incidents were recorded leading to over 60,000 deaths. The report is tagged Nigeria Watch: Fourth Report on Violence (2006-2014).

Prof. Marc-Antoine noted also that crime, political conflicts, ethno-religious fighting and economic issues are the other causes of violent deaths in Nigeria in the order of their impor-

ance.

"We observe an increase in violence since 2012 because of the Boko Haram crisis. Political fighting is the cyclical violence we could identify, and this was during the elections of April 2007 and April 2011. Oil distribution is much more dangerous than oil production. The Nigerian security forces are responsible for many killings on a daily basis", he said, adding that few foreigners are killed in Nigeria.

Writing in an Opinion Page of The Washington Times published on Wednesday, the Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Dr. Reuben Abati, said while the concerns that have been expressed over the abduction of the girls the secondary school in Nigeria since April 14 was "legitimate and understandable", "What is

not fair, and which stands out in many of the criticisms directed at the Nigerian government, is the attempt to ignore the issues and argue that President Jonathan is the problem.

"This attempt to turn the matter of the abducted girls into a referendum on the Jonathan administration has resulted in a complete misreading of the situation and much deliberate mischief fueled by ignorance and sponsored propaganda."

Citing what he called Karen Attiah's morbid satire, "What Nigerian President should have written" (The Washington Post, July 3) Abati claimed the author of the piece merely repeated worn misconceptions about the Chibok incident and the efforts of the Jonathan administration in

Nigeria to find and rescue the abducted girls.

"The most popular misconception is the notion that the Jonathan administration has consciously adopted a 'do-nothing' strategy, and that the government only responded and considered international partnership necessary after pressure was mounted on it to do something."

The Presidential spokesman traced the history of Boko Haram threat to as far back as 2002, but admitted that it had become a much bigger menace, and a full-scale terrorist movement, by the time Jonathan assumed office in 2010. He argued that in the past four years, Jonathan has taken proactive steps to combat terrorism on our shores, including military, political and social actions.

## Northern elders reject amended recommendations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

conference today by 11 a.m. The meeting, according to Kutigi, is to reconcile the position of the stakeholders on the contentious issues of resource control, derivation principle, revenue sharing and the development and exploitation of mineral resources nationwide among others which has pitched the Southern delegates against their Northern counterparts since the commencement of debate on Monday.

At the commencement of session in the morning yesterday, the votes of the previous day's proceedings were read and adopted. The Conference's Vice Chairman, Prof. Bolaji Akinyemi, who was presiding at the time, then called on the delegates to adopt the proposal as contained in the report of the Conference consensus group, to be read by Raymond Dokpesi, a delegate on the platform of Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria.

An order was raised against this request by Bashir Dahuat who said the content of the report he had at the time was different from what was

being circulated and to be read in the house by Dokpesi. To this end, he requested to the conference leadership to give them a little time to straighten the loose ends. The chairman sensing a possible disharmony gave the committee an hour and 30 minutes to go back and reconcile their positions. Session was temporary adjourned from 10:18 a.m. to resume at 11:30 a.m., when the consensus group must have tied the loose ends to the report. However, members of the consensus group started returning to the hall at 1:39 p.m., more than two hours behind schedule. The zonal leaders of the con-

sensus group had earlier expanded to include leaders of the six geopolitical zones and representatives of labour, employers association, women society and civil society had met for three consecutive days to "engage in promoting consensus on the way forward with regard to the issue of derivation and related matters," without success.

But the Northern delegates, it was learnt, yesterday stormed out of the meeting in protest and returned to the conference hall. Ibrahim Ahmadu Coomassie addressed the delegates on the floor on the outcome of the meeting. He stunned the

delegates when he disclosed that the meeting could not make any headway following disagreement on some of the fundamental issues.

Coomassie who is the co-chairman of the northern delegates and chairman of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) told the bewildered members that, "up till this evening (yesterday) we have not reached an agreement, therefore any reports submitted to you does not have the endorsement of the northern delegates."

Coomassie told the delegates that they did not in anyway reach any consensus and informed the members that he and some

others refused to sign the said agreement.

The former IGP's submission was greeted with a loud approval with applause from northern delegates who all stood up and were sighted shouting in unison on the floor.

Specifically, the committee on Devolution of Power had recommended that the 13 per cent derivation as contained in the 1999 Constitution be retained with a proviso that a percentage of the 13 per cent derivation devolves to the communities (i.e. host communities) from which the resources are derived. And again that the issue of offshore/on-

shore dichotomy should be left as it is.

The consensus group made of elders and three representatives from each region, including representative of people living with disability, had on Wednesday told the confab through a presentation by Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, that the group had taken a position and to recommend to the plenary not less than 18 per cent as the derivation formula, five per cent revenue allocation to be made the solid minerals development, and five of revenue allocation, principally for the Northeast, North west and the North Central.

## Senate rejects panel's proposal to stop fuel subsidy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Senate accepts the subsidy deducted by NNPC in the sum of \$1.2 billion (N180 billion) for fourth quarter of 2011 since it was certified by PPPRA and appropriated by the National Assembly. This is without prejudice to the outcome of forensic audit conducted by the office of the Auditor-General of the Federation and PWC.

"That the Senate accepts the subsidy deducted by NNPC from January 2012 to July 2013 of \$5.254 billion (N813,803 billion) since it was certified by PPPRA and appropriated by the National Assembly.

"That President Goodluck Jonathan should prepare and present to the National Assembly, a supplementary budget to cover the over-expenditure in the sum of N90.693 billion for PMS sub-

sidy for 2012 and the sum of N685.919 billion for kerosene subsidy expended without appropriation by the National Assembly in 2012 and 2013.

"That National Assembly should expeditiously pass the Petroleum Industry Bill." Sanusi had written Jonathan on the non-remittance to the Federation Account by the NNPC of \$49.8 billion, representing 76 per cent of the value of crude oil lifting from January 2012 to July 2013.

But the committee stated that all the agencies, which made presentations to it, agreed, after reconciliation, that \$47 billion out of the \$67 billion had been credited to the Federation Account, leaving only \$20 billion yet to be accounted for.

According to the report, part of the outstanding \$20 billion was the \$5.254 billion spent on subsidy for Premium Motor Spirit by the Petroleum Products Pricing and Regulatory Agency, which was covered by the Appropriation Acts of 2012 and 2013.

The report also stated that the \$3.512 billion spent for

kerosene subsidy as certified by PPPRA for the period January 2012 to July 2013 was still part of the \$20 billion.

In a remark after the debate, Mark said: "At the inception of the seventh Senate, I did say emphatically that there is no issue in this country that we cannot discuss as respected and distinguished senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. If we have the courage to set up a committee, nothing will stop us from taking the report of that committee and nothing will be swept under the carpet in this red chamber."

"I think what is glaring from this report is that we are all guilty. If the committees expected to carry out oversight functions on the NNPC were doing their job very well, we wouldn't have needed the governor of Central Bank to ring an alarm bell before reacting."

"Whether the alarm is genuine or not, is another matter. The executive may have good reasons but the legislature obviously does not have

reasons not to find out. Let me appeal to the various committees to endeavour to do their work.

Facts are different from rumours and what we have before us are the facts based on the interview conducted by the committee on public hearing and on all the documents that they could put together.

"One thing is very obvious, due process has not been followed and they have stated so very clearly.

"On the issue of subsidy, I want to appeal that we should not pit ourselves against the public opinion. If subsidy has to be removed, there must be public enlightenment and education so that facts would be made available to the people and then public opinion at the end of the day will count.

"If we sit here now and say remove subsidy, I think those who are benefiting from subsidy are very powerful and tomorrow they would influence media report and twist it to create an impression that the Senate is anti-people.

"If the subsidy has to go, I don't have problems with that but let us sensitise the people over a very long period of time so that everybody will be carried along and everybody will be on board and we then can take a final

decision on the issue of subsidy because the recommendations are far-reaching."

Senators took turns to bare their minds on the report. Senator Ayogu Eze commended the committee for the professional work carried out by them especially when they decided to hire professional auditors who made it possible for them to come up with such a report.

He said it was amazing that the governor of the CBN then, who was supposed to know the facts, was misleading the country by giving conflicting reports.

He suggested that the country should do away with subsidy and that those who had been found to have enriched themselves illegally through the proceeds from oil sales should be punished.

Senator Ahmed Lawan described the development as a wakeup call not only for the executive but for the legislature. He noted that the lawmakers saddled with the responsibility of carrying out oversight on the activities of the NNPC seemed to have gone to sleep while government appointees were busy spending public funds without seeking the approval of the National Assembly. He demanded more time for the members to study the report properly and take adequate actions.

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